

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 SAM-01 AF-06 ARA-06

EUR-12 /110 W

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R 100350Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T KABUL 3660

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS(PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, AF

SUBJ: KOREAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 131759

1. SUMMARY. THE NEW AND FIRST SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN HAS AS HIS FIRST CONCERN THE QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUPING. HE ATTACHES HIGHER PRIORITY AT THE MOMENT TO THIS QUESTION THAN TO THE QUESTION OF THE KOREAN ITEM AT THE 30TH UNGA. HE HAS ALSO SUGGESTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT INVITE PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA FOLLOWING HIS SEPTEMBER 1975 VISIT TO NORTH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 8 I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH THE NEW AND FIRST SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR, MEUNG JUN CHOI, TO AFGHANISTAN. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THE QUESTION OF THE UNGA AND, WHEN THE TIME COMES, WOULD ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE ANY APPROACHES WE MAKE TO THE AFGHANS.

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3. UPPERMOST IN CHOI'S MIND IS THE QUESTION OF KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUPING. HE TOLD ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACTION OF THE MARCH 17-19 MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES' STEERING COMMITTEE IN HAVANA IN RECOMMENDING TO THE FORTHCOMING AUGUST LIMA NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISZER'S MEETING THAT NORTH KOREA BE ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS ARE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT WITH THE MEMBERSOF THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO PERSUADE THEM THAT EITHER BOTH KOREAS OR NEITHER KOREA SHOULD BE ADMITTED. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN SHORTLY BEFORE THE LIMA MEETING TO DECIDE THIS ISSUE. CHOI HAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TAKEN THIS MATTER UP WITH THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PROVIDED ME WITH A COPY OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE HE DELIVERED AND WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO NEA/PAB. HE SAID THAT THE AFGHAN POSITION IS THAT IT WILL VOTE AT LIMA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. THE AFGHANS ALSO REVEALED SOME PREJUDICE IN THEIR POSITION IN CLAIMING THAT SOUTH KOREA IS MORE ALIGNED THAN NORTH KOREA BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA. CHOI POINTS OUT THAT IF NORTH KOREA AND NOT SOUTH KOREA IS ADMITTED TO THE NON-ALIGNED GROUPING, THIS WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE UNGA VOTE.

4. CHOI ALSO INFORMED ME THAT WHEN HE PAID HIS INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER AND CHIEF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR MOHAMMAD NAIM, NAIM TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT NORTH KOREA THIS COMING SEPTEMBER. CHOI SAID HE TOLD NAIM THAT HE WAS CERTAIN HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME NAIM IN SOUTH KOREA AT THE SAME TIME. HE IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A FORMAL INVITATION FOR NAIM.

5. COMMENT: CHOI DID NOT ASK ME TO SAY ANYTHING TO THE AFGHANS ABOUT KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUPING. MY INCLINATION WOULD BE TO LET THE KOREANS CARRY THE FREIGHT ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.

6. DEPARTMENT REPPEAT AS DESIRED.
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